

Northern Navigators AGM Minutes - 16th November 2017
Cadet Centre, Picktree Lane, Chester-le-Street

Meeting started 7:00pm

1. Introductions - present

Nigel Wright (Chairman), Boris Spence (Secretary), Kath Marshall-Ivens (Treasurer)
Bob Cooper, Roberta Marshall, Rob McKenna, Dougie Nisbet, Gary Russell, Michael
Thompson, Debbie Warren, Julian Warren

2. Apologies

Kate Hampshire, Joan Hanson, Frank Major, Barry Young

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were emailed after last meeting, Boris proposed accepting them as a true record,
Dougie seconded.

4. Chairman's Address - see attached report.

5. Secretary's Report - see attached report.

6. Treasurer's Report - see attached report.

Nigel proposed accepting accounts as audited by Debbie, seconded by Gary, all agreed.
Thanks to Debbie for doing the auditing; Debbie appointed for next year too.

7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Nigel was nominated for Chair by Kath and Boris seconded; Kath and Boris stay on in current
positions, nominated by Dougie and Debbie seconded.

Other committee members - Gary, Barry, Julian, Rob, Dougie, Debbie all happy to stay on
Committee. Kate to continue as fixtures secretary, mapping to be undertaken by Rob, Barney
as Junior Rep.

8. AOB

NEOA delegates meeting

Nigel and Rob attended, there was a lot of info about coaching and mapping. The NEOA Chair
position rotates between clubs and it is now Nigel's responsibility as NN Chair.

Relay entries - Debbie to continue as relay captain and enter teams.

Club Christmas meal

Action: Debbie to organise, all to suggest possible restaurants.

All members to contribute £10, partners invited for a contribution of £15, juniors free.

Event Safety Course

There have not been many courses advertised recently. Boris sends out details when he
receives them but we need to make sure new members starting to help at events can access
this training. Also applies to first aid courses.

Areas

The club is desperately short of areas and we have lost access to Carrs Top and Nenthead
Mines in recent years so we need someone in the club who can keep a register of all our areas,
with details about landowners, status of each one, etc.

Action: Rob to run a mapping training session - Debbie, Barney and Dougie are all interested.
Aykley Heads is a new area that could be used, linked in with other parts of Durham. The club
has 2 copies of OCAD - an OCAD single user license is approx. £300.

Action: Boris to ask NATO how they do mapping with regard to licenses, etc. Boris has a laptop
and a portable colour printer which the club could borrow.

Action: Rob to email with some possible dates. Session to be at Nigel's house, all to bring laptop for use during the session.

Cheque signatories

Kath has sorted the online forms for signatories - needs to add Nigel and remove Bob.

Date of next meeting: TBC

Meeting closed at 19:48pm.

NN CHAIR'S REPORT 2017

NIGEL WRIGHT 16 NOV 2017

Thanks to everyone involved in keeping the club going so well for another year. That is the main thing that I'd like to say in this report. I'll keep the rest brief.

As the Secretary's Report by Boris sets out, the club has put on a series of successful events throughout the year, heroically overcoming some problems along the way.

We've relied on the same club members who have been the back-bone of the club for the past few years and longer. It would be good to involve less experienced members in putting on events starting with simpler areas on lower-key events and with mentoring support as appropriate. I know that there are some members who are keen to do this but feel that they lack the necessary experience.

For the next year, we aim to build still closer links with the Durham University Orienteering Club, with collaboration on putting on events and coaching.

The club nights have continued local to Durham on Thursdays during term time. At times it feels like we're just keeping it going for the benefit of Teams Warren and Hampshire Wright, and for Dougie, but others attend from time to time and everyone has a good time. We're open to more attendees, but I think that we're in a better place when we started out effectively as an after-school club for the Durham Girls' Schoolchildren who weren't really interested.

I've continued to coordinate the North East Junior Squad membership and activities.

I think that our club is in a particular place in terms of its modest size and aspirations. This might not be the best on some measures, but I think that we are a welcoming club and that we serve the needs of our members well.

Secretary's Report:

The Club has had another significant and interesting year, with the club hosting a number of events along with the NEOA October Odyssey (OO) with the added challenge of losing the planned areas at short notice. Not to be defeated, members of the club demonstrated flexibility and resolve to pull the OO together. This along with support from NATO ensured a good weekend of orienteering. The only disappointment throughout the year was the low attendance at some of the club events, which were well planned and organized.

The year started in January with a level D event at Shaftoe Crags which is one of the club's very good areas. 111 competitors took part, with many positive comments from competitors. The next event was in March at Bishop Auckland Park, with 53 competitors. We then moved to one of the club's old areas in April, Chopwell Woodland Park with 78 competitors and a grumpy resident of the wood who is not a fan of orienteering. However, this did not deflect from a good event. The first part of the year ended with an event at Houghall Woods with 53 competitors and again another outstanding event.

This year the club had the responsibility of hosting the October Odyssey over the weekend 7/8 October. The plan was to run both days on Bewick Moor (North and South) and planning was underway when Natural England withdrew their permissions due to the possibility that some migrating birds would stop at Bewick Moor on the way North. (I am not sure if the birds did turn up!) After some discussions and lots of emails we managed to pull the event together with Day One at Washington Central (Urban Event) and Day Two at Hamsterley Forest (Crosscountry Event) Day One attracted 71 competitors and a few locals who did not quite understand what orienteering was about, so stole one control and set fire to another. Notwithstanding the issue with one or two of the locals the comments from competitors were very good. Day Two was another visit for the club to Hamsterley Forest (Low Redford and Windy Bank) Again, another very good event along with good weather. 117 competitors took on the technical and physical challenge of the forest as well as dodging the mountain bikers. The comments from the competitors were very positive apart from one or two who were not aware of the short notice change of areas. Thank you and well done to everyone who helped out on the October Odyssey to ensure it was a success. Without the support of NATO and Paul Boyles and his expertise with SI, it is unlikely the event would have taken place.

The NN club nights have continued to be a success hosted by the club's main coaches Nigel Wright and Julian Warren. As the club night continues it will bring more children and families into the club, many thanks for the enthusiasm and commitment of Nigel and Julian.

Rob McKenna has continued to be the main backbone of the club, mapping new areas, updating club maps and running the club printer.

We look forward to next year and the challenges ahead. Although the Club remains small in numbers it is very active throughout the local area and it is expected the Club will move from strength to strength.

Boris Spence